

## Notes and Observations

NEPTICULA SPECIOSA FREY: A UNIVOLTINE OR A BIVOLTINE SPECIES?—In my "Notes on some of the British Nepticulidae", under the heading of *Acer pseudoplatanus* L. (Sycamore) (antea 77-78) I pointed out that there are conflicting opinions expressed in the literature on whether *speciosa* has one or two generations a year. I also recorded that I had four cocoons from larvae taken on the 29th July 1970. These produced no imagines in the following August, as one would expect if the species were bivoltine, but a moth emerged on the 28th April 1971. It is dangerous to generalise from a single example, but the indications are that *speciosa* has a single generation with a prolonged period of emergence.

The moth in question came from a *pseudoplatanella*-type mine, and the wing-pattern is indistinguishable from that of specimens bred from *speciosa*-type mines. This corroborates Borkowski's view that *pseudoplatanella* Skala is a synonym of *speciosa* Frey.—A. M. EMMET, Labrey Cottage, Victoria Gardens, Saffron Walden, Essex. 8.v.1971.

A RARE ABERRATION OF VANESSA ATALANTA L. IN SUSSEX.—On the 29th July last, in full sunshine, I was parking my car on the roadside verge of a Weald wood. As I glanced through the far side car window I was amazed to see what was obviously an aberration of *V. atalanta* resting, with wings closed, near the top of the clipped dogwood hedge about four feet from the ground. I had my net ready and was able to capture the insect successfully after an uneasy excursion round the rear of the vehicle!

Careful examination of the specimen confirms that it is an example of the aberration illustrated by South, pl. 49, figs. 1 and 2, and described in the text on p. 82. It is also illustrated by Frohawk in Natural History of British Butterflies, plate 27, figs. 14 and 15, and described in the text on page 165.

My example is more extreme in that (a) on the upperside forewings the first white costal blotch is absent except for a small white speck on the margin, and (b) on the underside forewings the large blue costal area is heavily suffused with black. On the underside hindwings the central areas of the wings are darker and the marginal bands lighter in contrast. Only two blue ovoid spots are present on the edge of the bands.

The insect would appear to be a male and unfortunately is not in mint condition.—R. M. CRASKE, 29 Salisbury Road, Hove, Sussex, BN3 3AE.

YPSOLOPHUS HORRIDELLUS TREITSCHKE IN KENT.—On the 7th of August in my garden, I saw a sooty black moth fly past me and settle on some brickwork. I had no pillbox in my pocket